

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for automating directory assistance without operator intervention comprising:

receiving an audible listing response from a caller requesting directory assistance;

receiving an audible locality response from the caller requesting directory assistance, wherein the locality response identifies a locality and the locality is a geographic location;

determining a listing query based on the listing response and a locality query based on the locality response, wherein the locality query is not based on the listing response and the listing query is not based on the locality response;

initiating a search of a directory assistance database using ~~both the listing query and the locality query~~ grammar tags provided by a speech recognition system that processes separately the listing and the locality responses;

receiving a listing response containing at least one record having a listing associated with a number; and

selecting a record containing a number corresponding to the audible listing response and locality response for announcement to the caller.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the determining step further comprises determining the listing query based on the listing response using listing grammar derived from most frequently requested listings for the directory assistance database.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the listing grammar associates a plurality of potential listing responses with a general listing and the determining step further comprises determining that the listing response is one of the plurality of potential listing responses and determining the listing query based on the general listing.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the determining step further comprises determining the locality query based on the locality response using locality grammar derived from most frequently requested listings for the directory assistance database.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the locality response is a reply to a "what city" query.

6. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the most frequently requested listings are not a function of locality.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the determining step further comprises:

- sending the listing response for grammar processing to determine listing query information;
- sending the locality response for grammar processing to determine locality query information;
- receiving the listing query information and locality query information; and
- deriving the listing query and locality query from the listing query information and locality query information.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the determining step further comprises:

- sending the listing response for grammar processing to determine listing query information based on most frequently requested listings for the directory assistance database;
- sending the locality response for grammar processing to determine listing query information;
- receiving the listing query information and locality query information; and
- deriving the listing query and locality query from the listing query information and locality query information.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the determining step further comprises:

- sending the listing response for grammar processing;
- sending the locality response for grammar processing;
- receiving a grammar tag including listing and locality information based on the listing response and the locality response; and
- deriving the listing query and locality query from the grammar tag.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein when the listing response includes a plurality of records, the selecting step further comprising sifting to eliminate ones of the plurality of records until there is one record or a common number throughout any remaining records.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein when at least one of the plurality of records includes a locality matching the caller's locality response and the sifting step further comprises removing all other records in the plurality of records not containing the locality response.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the determining step further determines an expected number for a frequently requested listing corresponding to the listing response and when at least one of the plurality of records includes the expected number the sifting step further comprises removing all other records in the plurality of records not containing the expected number.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein when certain of the plurality of records contain a given listing and locality the sifting step further comprises removing all records not having a toll-free number if one of the certain records contains the toll-free number.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 wherein when certain of the plurality of records contain a given listing and number the sifting step further comprises ~~combine~~ combining the certain records into one.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein when the sifting step fails to eliminate ones of the plurality of records until there is one record or a common number throughout any remaining records, transferring the listing response and locality response to an operator.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising initiating announcement of the selected number to the caller.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 further comprising generating the listing grammar by:

identifying the most frequently requested listings independent of locality;

grouping synonymous listings within the most frequently requested listings; and

determining a common vocabulary for a group of synonymous listings, wherein when a requested listing matches any listing in the group of synonymous listings, the grammar constructed to produce the common vocabulary for generating the listing query used to search the directory assistance database.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 further comprising generating the locality grammar by:

identifying the most frequently requested localities independent of listing;

grouping synonymous localities within the most frequently requested localities; and

determining a common vocabulary for a group of synonymous listings, wherein when a requested locality matches any locality in the group of synonymous localities, the grammar will produce the common vocabulary for generating the locality query used to search the directory assistance database.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for directory assistance automation comprising:

- requesting a desired listing from a caller;
- requesting a desired locality from the caller, wherein the desired locality corresponds to a geographic location;
- storing a listing response and a locality response from the caller;
- generating a listing search query based on comparing the listing response with most frequently requested listings similar to the listing response, said listing search query independent of the locality response;
- generating a locality search query independent of the listing response and based on the locality response;
- searching a directory assistance database using the listing and locality queries grammar tags provided by a speech recognition system that processes separately the listing and the locality responses; and
- processing results of the directory assistance database search to select a number corresponding to the listing response and locality response.